

Appl. Serial No. 10/662,731
Amdt. Dated: December 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of Sept. 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A shock and vibration isolation system for mounting equipment to a base wall, the system comprising:

- a load plate configured for attachment of the equipment thereto;
 - a base plate configured for attachment to the base wall, the base plate being substantially parallel to the load plate;
 - a spring arrangement disposed intermediate the load plate and the base plate, the spring arrangement including at least one pneumatic spring engaging the load plate and the base plate to bias the load plate and the base plate in a separated relationship;
 - a magnetorheological damper engaging the load plate and the base plate and being adapted for providing a selectively variable reaction force to the load plate and the base plate responsive to a relative displacement of the load plate with respect to the base plate;
 - a damper controller disposed intermediate the load plate and the base plate and operatively connected to the magnetorheological damper for controlling the reaction force applied to the load plate and the base plate, the damper controller including a rechargeable power supply; and
 - a recharging arrangement in electrical communication with the rechargeable power supply, the recharging arrangement comprising at least one piezoelectric generator adapted for converting vibratory motion to electrical energy for storage in the rechargeable power supply.
- wherein the damper controller and the rechargeable power supply form a single unit.

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22. (original) An isolation system according to claim 21 wherein the damper controller includes an optimum damper force determination module configured for determining from real time data a relative displacement of the load plate and a relative velocity of the load plate with respect to the base plate and for determining an optimum reaction force based on the relative displacement and relative velocity.

23. (original) An isolation system according to claim 22 wherein the controller further includes a current driver operatively connected to the magnetorheological damper and the power supply for selectively supplying current to energize the magnetorheological damper; a damper force control module in communication with the optimum force determination module and the current driver, the damper force control module being adapted for controlling the supply of current to the magnetorheological damper according to a predetermined control algorithm.

24. (original) An isolation system according to claim 23 wherein the control algorithm is selected from the group consisting of clipped optimal control, velocity feedback control and acceleration bang-bang control.

25. (original) An isolation system according to claim 21 wherein the recharging arrangement includes an electrical coil, at least one spring and a magnet connected to the at least one spring, the magnet being disposed within the electrical coil so that oscillation of the magnet produces a current in the electrical coil.

26. (original) An isolation system according to claim 21 wherein the piezoelectric generator comprises at least one piezoelectric stack generator formed as a laminate of a plurality of prismatic piezoelectric crystals, the piezoelectric stack generator having an upper PSG surface and a lower PSG surface.

27. (original) An isolation system according to claim 26 wherein the piezoelectric stack generator is disposed intermediate the load plate and the equipment so that the upper PSG surface is engaged by the equipment and the lower PSG surface is engaged by the load plate.

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28. (original) An isolation system according to claim 26 wherein the piezoelectric stack generator is disposed intermediate the base wall and the base plate so that the upper PSG surface is engaged by the base plate and the lower PSG surface is engaged by the base wall.

29. (currently amended) A self-powered semi-active damping system comprising:

a semi-active damper disposable intermediate a load and a base wall, the a semi-active damper being adapted for providing a selectively variable reaction force to the load and the base wall responsive to a relative displacement of the load with respect to the base wall;

a damper controller disposable intermediate the load ~~plate~~ and the base wall ~~plate~~ and operatively connected to the semi-active damper for controlling the reaction force applied to the load and the base wall;

a rechargeable power supply disposable intermediate the load ~~plate~~ and the base wall ~~plate~~ and operably connected to the damper controller and the semi-active damper; and

a recharging arrangement in electrical communication with the rechargeable power supply, the recharging arrangement comprising a piezoelectric generator and being mountable to one of the base wall and the load and being adapted for converting vibratory motion to electrical energy for storage in the rechargeable power supply, wherein the damper controller and the rechargeable power supply form a single unit.

30. (original) A semi-active damping system according to claim 29 wherein the semi-active damper comprises one of a magnetorheological fluid damper and an electrorheological fluid damper.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

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34. (original) A semi-active damping system according to claim 29 wherein the rechargeable power supply includes one of a battery and at least one capacitor and is connected to the recharging arrangement through a rectifier bridge circuit.

35. (original) A semi-active damping system according to claim 29 wherein the rechargeable power supply includes a plurality of ultracapacitors connected to the recharging arrangement through a rectifier bridge circuit.

36-41. (canceled)

42. (previously presented) An isolation system according to claim 21 wherein the damper controller is attached to one of the set consisting of the base plate and the load plate.

43. (currently amended) ~~An isolation~~ A damping system according to claim 29 wherein the damper controller is attached to one of the set consisting of the base ~~plate-wall~~ plate and the load ~~plate~~.